



How the University of Nantes deployed its online collaboration platform based on Nextcloud and **ONLYOFFICE Docs**

The University of Nantes transformed its sharing platform into a whole digital collaboration environment UNCloud, based on open source solutions Nextcloud and ONLYOFFICE. In this article, we are going to tell you about the challenges that led to the birth of the project, and its successful implementation.

About the University of Nantes

Founded in the early 1960s, the University of Nantes is a multidisciplinary university and offers programs in most fields of knowledge.

37000 students mix within the 20 faculties and schools. The University has 3900 staff members, 43 research units, and 44 laboratories. The University of Nantes was listed in the Times Higher Education World University Ranking 2015. It is ranked among the top 25 French universities.

Goals to achieve

In the beginning, this project aimed to facilitate document sharing between students, teaching staff, other employees, and external users. However, the results of the first test showed that users were waiting for a larger range of tools. To cover most of their needs, the following key areas of work were identified:

- Centralize data storage and management;
- Simplify and organize the university data life cycle;
- Ensure greater staff and students mobility;
- Facilitate interaction and collaboration between students, researchers, and teaching staff;
- Guarantee the confidentiality of the data and ensure compliance with laws and regulations.

Why ONLYOFFICE

As for an online office suite that was supposed to add its editing and co-editing features to the Nextcloud environment, the choice was between two options: ONLYOFFICE and Collabora Office. Matthieu Le Corre, Chief Digital Officer at the University of Nantes, who is in charge of this project, explains:

“Another important step was the choice of the right office suite. Speaking about ONLYOFFICE architecture, document processing is performed on the client side to reduce the server loading. Developed on JavaScript using HTML5 Canvas, ONLYOFFICE editors work right in the browser. Collabora Office generates documents and performs the whole process on the server. It considerably increases the load on the server and makes the editing process slower. What’s more, Collabora’s interface was rated less friendly by our internal users.”

Successful experience

After the test phase, the service UNCloud (cloud of the University of Nantes) was successfully deployed in 2018 for students, teachers, and employees. Online co-editing remains one of the most used features. Here is the top 3 use cases for ONLYOFFICE:

- **Work on a document sent by email:** previously, they were using mail to share documents with colleagues, and ask for contribution or get approval from everyone involved. To avoid having multiple copies on different computers, ONLYOFFICE allows sharing documents with different access permissions and co-edit them in real time.
- **Meeting minutes:** a meeting organizer creates a doc in ONLYOFFICE and shares it with all participants to view and add meeting notes and keep everyone in the loop.
- **Collaboration on projects:** if the students are two or more to work on the same project, they are able to create a folder with the documents related to this project, edit and co-edit them, communicate via chat, leave comments, track changes made by their teammates.

Useful information

Official website of the University of Nantes:

www.univ-nantes.fr

More success stories from ONLYOFFICE customers:

www.onlyoffice.com/customers.aspx

ONLYOFFICE official website:

www.onlyoffice.com

ONLYOFFICE address:

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